

REMARKS

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action Applicant's election without traverse of Species 8, claims 16, 17 and 19, in the reply filed on 4/17/2006 is acknowledged. Applicant confirms this election.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action it is indicated that the title of the invention is not descriptive, and the following title is suggested: --A Method for Fabricating a GMR Read Head Portion of a Magnetic Head--. Responsive hereto, Applicant has amended the title accordingly.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action claims 16, 17 and 19 are objected to because in claim 16 the phrase "second electrically insulating layer" as recited in line 10 is confused because there is no a first electrically insulating layer for consistency. Responsive hereto claim 16 has been amended to cure this objection.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hara et al. (US PAT. 5,946,167), stating:

“Hara et al. teach a process of making a GMR sensor comprising steps of: fabricating a bottom magnetic shield layer (13); fabricating a first (or bottom) electrically insulating layer (14) upon the bottom magnetic shield layer; fabricating a GMR read sensor (15) including a plurality of films; fabricating a first electrical conductor layer (17) on a surface plane of the GMR read sensor as shown in Fig. 1; fabricating monolayer photoresist mask (21) upon the first electrical conductor layer, the etching mask including a read width trench formed therethrough as shown in Fig. 3(a); reactive-ion-etching the first electrical conductor layer through the read width trench to create two first electrical conductor layers as shown in Figs 3(a)-(d); fabricating a second (or top) electrically insulating layer (18) above the GMR read sensor layer as shown in Fig. 1; and fabricating a top magnetic shield layer (19) upon the second electrically insulating layer as shown in Fig. 1 (see also col. 4, line 44 to col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 17 the end faces of the two first electrical conductor layers are generally perpendicular to a film surface of said GMR read sensor as shown in Fig. 2. “

Responsive hereto, Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to recite limitations previously set forth in objected-to claim 19 (as set forth in paragraph 7 of the Office Action). Specifically, Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to recite that the two electrical

conductor leads are fabricated prior to the deposition of the GMR sensor films. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended independent claim 16 is now in condition for allowance.

Regarding dependent claim 17, Applicant submits that it is allowable in that it recites features that are not taught by the cited prior art, and alternatively, that it is allowable in that it depends from an allowable base claim (amended independent claim 16).

In paragraph 7 of the Office Action claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Responsive hereto, Applicant has amended independent claim 16 to include the limitations previously set forth in claim 19. Although claim 19 previously depended from claim 17, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 16 is allowable upon the inclusion of the limitations previously set forth in claim 19. Following this amendment of claim 16, claim 19 has been cancelled.

Lastly, Applicant has included new dependent claim 26 which is similar to previously withdrawn claim 20, where new dependent claim 26 is now dependent from claim 16. Applicant submits that new dependent claim 26 is allowable in that it includes non-obvious limitations when taken in combination with the limitations set forth in amended independent claim 16, and alternatively, that claim 26 is allowable in that it depends from an allowable base claim (amended independent claim 16).

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments

with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on June 29, 2006 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: June 29, 2006



Patricia Beilmann